

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Harald MARTIN et al.)
) Group Art Unit : Not Known
Appln. No. : 10/030,178)
 (National Stage of)
 PCT/DE00/02658) Examiner : Not Known
I.A. Filed : August 2, 2000)
)
 : METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DRYING, SEPARATING, CLASSIFYING AND
 DECOMPOSING RECOVERABLE WASTE PRODUCTS



SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Further to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby directs the Examiner's attention to the following additional information.

U.S. Patent No. 1,972,929

U.S. Patent No. 4,123,332

U.S. Patent No. 4,412,889

U.S. Patent No. 4,501,644

DE 25 46 801 A1

DE 41 39 512 A1

DE 44 41 423 A1

DE 43 34 544 A1

DE 42 09 549 A1

P21939.A04

DE 36 32 105 A1

DE 38 26 520 A1

DE 34 17 620 A1

DE 42 37 161 A1

DE 195 28 018 A1

DE 43 37 421 A1

DE 196 12 037 A1

DE 42 26 632 C1

DE 42 35 412 A1 and its family member U.S. Patent No. 5,425,317

DE 197 14 593 A1

DE 42 30 311 C1

EP 0 280 364 A1

EP 0 426 925 A1

WO 94/18287

WO 99/04197

WO 00/17288

Applicant further directs the Examiner's attention to WO 01/09267 which is the publication of International Application No. PCT/DE00/02659 of which U.S. Application No. 10/030,177 is the U.S. National Stage Application.

Applicant also notes that that International Preliminary Examination Report for International Application No. PCT/DE00/02658 indicates the following regarding the claims and prior art:

Section V.

1. A method for drying and decomposing waste products is known from DE2816282A in which the waste products (industrial dust and slurry) are introduced into a shaft-like chamber (12) and are deposited in the funnel-shaped lower part (14) of this shaft-like chamber and simultaneously air and waste gases (page 24, lines 11-13) are introduced separately into the chamber from below under pressure, whereby the air is introduced into the chamber essentially axially (19; page 14, lines 5-7) and the waste gases (130, 82, 16) are introduced into the chamber essentially tangentially and radially (see Figure 3), resulting in a rotationally symmetrical eddying of the solid and gaseous substances in the chamber and subsequently or during the continuous process the dried and essentially decomposed (incinerated) products are discharged from the chamber (24) downwards.

The subject of Claim 1 differs from this prior art in that

- the waste products originate from a degassing and/or gasification process and
- the said waste products are introduced "with the waste gases."

However, it does not require any inventive activity to use the known method for these wastes as well.

The expression "with the waste gases" is understood to mean that the waste products are conveyed into the shaft-like chamber directly and carried by the waste gases. However, it does not appear to be an inventive activity to convey the dust material pneumatically in the gas surrounding it.

It is not evident how the means used can lead to a classification or a separation of various substances.

If the incinerator of prior art is used here essentially for drying and gasification, it appears worthy of note that an incineration is not provided for. However, a degassing of waste is *per se* known from EP0609802A in which the waste is heated. However, the suitability of the device according to DE2816282A for heating granular or dust substances is obvious, and such a use is therefore obvious.

Claim 1 therefore does not fulfill the requirements of Article 33 of the PCT.

2. The further characterizing features of the dependent method claims 2-7, 9, and 10, do not provide any facts that are not obvious or prior art (Claims 3, 5).
3. The annular gaps indicated in Claim 8 can be viewed as obvious alternatives to flat nozzles. Although flat nozzles are not prior art here, they are *per se* known for gas-feeding purposes. Those skilled in the art select them without an inventive activity.

4. The above remarks apply equally to the device claims.
5. None of the Claims fulfills the requirement of inventive activity of Article 33 of the PCT.

Section VIII.

6. Independent Claims 1 and 11 are not formulated in the two-part form according to Rule 6.3 b) PCT. In the present case the two parts appear appropriate, however. Consequently the features known from prior art in association with one another (Document DE2816282A) should be summarized in the preamble (Rule 6.3 b) i) PCT) and the remaining features should be noted in the characterizing part (Rule 6.3 b) ii) PCT).
10. The request of the applicant for a further decision or a hearing could not be complied with due to lack of time (deadline for issuing the preliminary report).

Copies of the above-noted documents are enclosed together with a duly completed Form PTO-1449. It is noted that the Form PTO-1449, with the exception of the U.S. application, references each of the cited documents. The U.S. application is not listed as it is not a publication. Moreover, the Examiner is invited to review the file of the cited U.S. Patent Application at the Patent and Trademark Office.

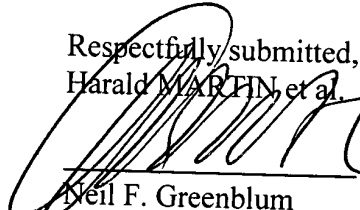
The Examiner is requested to consider each of these documents, and to make them of record in this application by initialing in the appropriate spaces on the Form PTO-1449. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner include a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, no fee should be necessary for its consideration. However, if any fees are deemed to be necessary for consideration of this disclosure statement, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

P21939.A04

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this matter, the undersigned may be contacted at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Harald MARFIN et al.



Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394

June 11, 2002
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Ref no 33,099

Form PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Atty. Docket No.
P21939

Serial No.
10/030,178

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant
Harald MARTIN et al.

Filing Date
February 1, 2002

Group
Not Known

JUN 11 2002

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED	

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.
P21939Serial No.
10/030,178INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant
Harald MARTIN et al.Filing Date
February 1, 2002Group
Not Known

JUN 11 2002

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	1 9 7 2 9 2 9	09/11/34	FISHER			
	4 1 2 3 3 3 2	10/31/78	ROTTER			
	4 4 1 2 8 8 9	11/01/83	OECK			
	4 5 0 1 6 4 4	02/26/85	THOMAS			
	5 4 2 5 3 1 7	06/20/95	SCHAUB et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	2 5 4 6 8 0 1	04/21/77	GERMANY			
	4 1 3 9 5 1 2	06/03/93	GERMANY			
	4 4 4 1 4 2 3	06/05/97	GERMANY			
	4 3 3 4 5 4 4	04/13/95	GERMANY			
	4 2 0 9 5 4 9	09/30/93	GERMANY			
	3 6 3 2 1 0 5	04/16/87	GERMANY			
	3 8 2 6 5 2 0	02/08/90	GERMANY			
	3 4 1 7 6 2 0	11/21/85	GERMANY			
	4 2 3 7 1 6 1	05/05/94	GERMANY			
1	9 5 2 8 0 1 8	02/06/97	GERMANY			
	4 3 3 7 4 2 1	01/12/95	GERMANY			
1	9 6 1 2 0 3 7	10/02/97	GERMANY			
	4 2 2 6 6 3 2	07/22/93	GERMANY			
	4 2 3 5 4 1 2	04/28/94	GERMANY			
1	9 7 1 4 5 9 3	10/15/98	GERMANY			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.